

CLAIMS

1. An arterial graft device of the kind comprising two parts to be inserted one at a time within the artery to be repaired and which should be connected one to the other within the artery to which access is attained by catheterizing techniques, wherein the first of said parts comprises a connecting opening where the second part is engaged thereto, characterized in that said first part has guiding means which form a funnel for introducing a guidewire of a catheter and said second part of the graft device.

2. A graft device according to claim 1, characterized in that said guiding means comprise a vertex extending from said connecting opening and defining a guiding passage which is cone-shaped as it becomes distant from said connecting opening.

3. A graft device according to claim 2, characterized in that said coned vertex is formed by a foldable structure, which can be also compressed-expanded, and can be driven together with said first part of said device within a catheter sheath.

4. A graft device according to claim 3, characterized in that said coned vertex and said first part of the stent-graft constitute a unitary structure of the same material.

5. A graft device according to claim 4, characterized in that said material is selected from the group comprising plastic and metal, said device being expandable by any of the following mechanisms: balloon expansion, thermal memory, elasticity, spring loaded elasticity, auto expansion.

6. A graft device according to claim 4, characterized in that said material is covered by any of the following materials: polyethylene and polytetrafluoroethylene.

7. A graft device according to any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that said coned vertex and said graft device form a bifurcated aortic endoluminal graft disposed on the infra-renal aorta and the iliac arteries, said first part of the graft forming the main aortic body and an iliac segment, and said second part forming the other iliac segment.

8. A process for positioning an arterial graft device according to any of the foregoing claims, wherein said first part of the device is inserted within the artery to be repaired and is positioned within the artery, a catheter guidewire being then inserted whereby said second part of the graft device is carried so as to be connected to said connecting opening of said first part of the device, characterized in that said guidewire is guided towards said artery to be repaired and, once there, the guidewire is funneled through a coned passage becoming narrower towards said connecting opening and which leads said second part of the graft device along said guidewire and along said coned passage until said second part is connected to said connecting opening of the first part of the graft device.

9. A process according to claim 8, characterized in that said graft device comprises a bifurcated aortic endoluminal graft and said step of inserting the second part, or iliac segment, of the device is carried out through the femoral artery and into the aorta by the corresponding iliac artery.